



At a Glance

December 31, 2014

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Breaking News

\$65 Million Health Care Grant Awarded to Colorado

Colorado has been awarded \$65 million in State Innovation Model (SIM) funding to create a coordinated, accountable system of care that gives Coloradans access to integrated primary care and behavioral health. Colorado will use the funding over the next four years to further develop a State Health Care Innovation Plan with a focus on improved integration of physical and behavioral health services. The goal is to improve health system performance for residents of those states participating in the SIM project.

The projects will be broad based and focus on people enrolled in private insurance, Medicare, Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) (Child Health Plan *Plus* (CHP+) in Colorado). The grant proposal was led by the governor's office, the Departments of Health Care Policy & Financing, Human Services and Public Health and Environment, Regulatory Affairs, Personnel Administration and included input from more than one hundred stakeholders from the public, private and nonprofit sectors representing governments, physical and behavioral health care providers, public and private payers and advocates. The Department of Health Care Policy & Financing will be the primary implementing state agency for the proposal.

Same-Sex Marriages and Applying for Medical Assistance

Effective October 7, 2014, Colorado began to recognize same-sex marriage. This change requires Medicaid to treat all married couples the same whether same-sex or opposite sex. For the purposes of applying for Medical Assistance, a couple should be entered as married for the Medicaid eligibility determination. Same-sex couples who were married out of state in a state that permits same-sex marriage will be recognized as a married couple in Colorado and for the Medicaid eligibility determination.

The Department is working on developing frequently asked questions and will make them available online in the near future. For additional information, please see the [Department's 14-017 Agency Letter](#).

Department Statement Regarding the Billing of Medicaid Members

The Department is receiving numerous questions regarding the ability of health care providers to bill Medicaid members for co-insurance, deductibles or full payment for services. It is important that all health care providers know that Medicaid members cannot be billed for any service covered by Medicaid.

Colorado law (C.R.S. 25.5-4-301(II)) states that no Medicaid member shall be liable for the cost, or the cost remaining after payment by Medicaid, Medicare or a private insurer, of medical benefits authorized under Title XIX of the Social Security Act. This law applies whether or not Medicaid has reimbursed the provider, whether claims are rejected or denied by Medicaid due to provider error and whether or not the provider is enrolled in the Colorado Medical Assistance Program. This law applies even if a Medicaid member agrees to pay for part or all of a covered service.

Payment may be collected from or billed to a Medicaid member **only** if the specific service rendered is **not covered** by Medicaid. In this situation, the Department requires that providers obtain a statement prior to service, signed by the Medicaid member, acknowledging that the specific service is not a Medicaid-covered benefit and agreeing to pay.

The Department encourages providers to consider enrolling with Medicaid to ensure reimbursement for services provided to Medicaid members. Medicaid enrollment also gives providers easy access to checking a patient's eligibility for Medicaid or Child Health Plan *Plus* (CHP+) prior to providing services. Medicaid and your communities need you – please consider enrolling today. colorado.gov/hcpf/provider-enrollment

For questions related to the proper billing of Medicaid-covered claims, please call the Fiscal Agent, Xerox at 1-800-237-0757. For more information about the benefits of enrolling with Medicaid, please contact [Marceil Case](#), Provider Relations Manager.



New Child Health Plan *Plus* logo

We are pleased to announce a new look and feel is coming to the Department's Child Health Plan *Plus* (CHP+) program. Effective January 1st, we will begin using a new logo on all CHP+ materials (see below). The old CHP+ logo will be phased out. The new CHP+ logo is the Department's shield sitting inverted next to the green Colorado logo with the words "CHP+ Child Health Plan *Plus*" immediately next to triangles. The visual alignment of the CHP+ logo with the Department's shield helps to provide a consistent brand for the Department. Please note that all CHP+ documents created prior to the new logo launch on January 1st **do not** need to be updated retroactively.



New Colorado.gov/PEAK logo

A new look has been created to represent PEAK as Colorado's online service to screen and apply for medical, food, and cash assistance and early childhood programs. The new look of Colorado.gov/PEAK was launched on Nov. 9 and included a new logo and color scheme. Moving forward, all **new** collateral must contain the new trademarked PEAK logo. Please note that documents created prior to the logo launch **do not** need to be updated retroactively. **Guidance on the new PEAK logo and images for download is available at tinyurl.com/peakoutreach.**



New Department Logo

Effective November 1st, the Department began using a new logo on all Department materials.

HCPF's new shield sits inverted next to the green Colorado logo. This shield will be used on all new materials and will replace the circle seal that has been used on Department documents, marketing materials, and our Department's website. Please note that documents created prior to the shield launch do not need to be updated retroactively.

The HCPF shield aligns with those of our partner agencies CDHS and CDPHE as well as aligns with [brandCOLORADO](#) standards. Through visual alignment, the shield now expresses our most important message at HCPF: We serve people. Additionally, our primary Department color of blue with a purple accent, which HCPF employees helped choose—can be seen on the shield.



Sneak Peek: PEAKHealth Mobile App for Medicaid & CHP+ Clients

Launched in late December, the new *PEAKHealth* mobile app gives Medicaid and Child Health Plan *Plus* (CHP+) members a simple way to keep their information up to date and access important health information right from their phone.

The *PEAKHealth* app is for **current** Medicaid and CHP+ clients who have a PEAK account to sign on. *PEAKHealth* is **not** for people who want to **apply** for benefits.



The PEAKHealth app will allow clients to search for a provider, view an electronic version of their medical card, update their income and contact information, view benefit information, make a payment and access health and wellness resources.

PEAKHealth is available for free in the Apple and Google Play app stores.

The Department is currently doing a 'soft launch' of the PEAKHealth app and proactive outreach to clients will begin in Spring, 2015.

For more information on the PEAKHealth mobile app watch this [video tour](#).

Department News

We are pleased to announce that Gretchen Hammer will join the Department as Medicaid Director effective January 5, 2015. In her new role she will oversee the Department's Health Programs Office. Ms. Hammer was Executive Director of the Colorado Coalition for the Medically Underserved (CCMU) and served as past Chair and Member of the Board of Directors for Connect for Health Colorado. Prior to her work at CCMU, Ms. Hammer was a private consultant focused on leadership development, complex systems change initiatives, strategic planning, program management and constituent engagement for numerous public serving organizations.

Colorado Consumer Directed Attendant Support Services (CDASS) Financial Management Systems Transition Documents

Effective January 1, 2015, CDASS clients will have a choice between three Financial Management Service (FMS) vendors, listed below, and two employer models: Agency with Choice (AwC) and Fiscal/Employer Agent (F/EA). More information and documents related to the transition are [on the website](#).

The three FMS contractors are as follows:

Morning Star Financial Services

www.morningstarfs.com

Northeast Pennsylvania Center for Independent Living
dba ACES\$ Financial Management Services:

www.MyCIL.org

Public Partnerships, LLC

www.publicpartnerships.com

For more information, contact [Kelly Jepson](#).

Increase Enrollment

New Resources for Partners Available

The Department has published numerous new resources for eligibility sites and individuals helping Coloradans through the health coverage application process. The following resources are just a sample of what can be found on Colorado.gov/HCPF/ACAResources under the Tools section:

- [Medicaid, CHP+ and Connect for Health Colorado Side by Side Monthly Maximum Income Guidelines](#) Effective April 1, 2014 – Side by side income comparison for Medicaid, CHP+ and Connect for Health Colorado.
- [Where to Go for More Information](#) – Desk guide for where to go for more information regarding the application process, PEAK, trainings, Connect for Health CO and more.
- [Medical Assistance Case Assignment Flowchart](#) Effective November 9, 2014 – Flowchart that explains who owns what type of case following the launch of the shared application and eligibility process on November 9.

Reminder: Changes Coming in January to 5% Income Disregard

As part of the Affordable Care Act, an income disregard in the amount equal to five percent (5%) of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) was established. Currently, the 5% income disregard is automatically applied to all Modified Adjusted Gross Income (MAGI) populations for the purposes of determining eligibility for Medicaid and Child Health Plan *Plus* (CHP+). Beginning January 1, 2015, the Department will implement rule changes issued by Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to the manner in which the 5% income disregard is applied to individuals applying for Medicaid and CHP+.

The 5% income disregard will be applied when countable income exceeds the FPL for MAGI populations under Medicaid or CHP+. The 5% income disregard is **not** applied to every MAGI eligibility determination and will be applied as a last step in determining eligibility when an individual exceeds the income limit, but is within the income standard if the 5% income disregard were applied.

For more information on this change taking effect January 1, 2015, please see the FAQs on Colorado.gov/HCPF/ACAResources > Fact Sheets & Frequently Asked Questions.

PEAK Resources and Trainings

PEAK resources and training information is now available on the [PEAK Outreach Initiative's Outreach and Training site](#) or tinyurl.com/peakoutreach

The site hosts a variety of outreach and training resources for community partners, including:

- Important PEAK announcements and news
- PEAK View newsletters
- Live webinar and training calendar
- PEAK On-Demand recorded webinars
- PEAK User Guides
- PEAK support call schedule
- PEAK logo usage guidelines and files

The PEAK Outreach Team will continue to distribute the PEAK View newsletter on a monthly basis, but you will also be able to stay up-to-date on PEAK happenings and resource materials through the PEAK Outreach & Training site.

For more information, contact PEAKOutreach@bouldercounty.org.

Improve Health Outcomes

Benefits Collaborative Stakeholder Meetings

The Department has scheduled a series of upcoming stakeholder meetings related to various Benefits Collaborative Processes. Topics discussed will include: the definition of medical necessity, revisions to private duty nursing policy and the development of a genetic testing policy. The Benefits Collaborative Process is the Department's formal policy development process and is open to anyone who wishes to participate.

Meeting dates may be found on the [Benefits Collaborative Meeting Schedule page](#) of the Department website.

For more information on any of these meetings or to RSVP, please email BenefitsCollaborative@state.co.us.

Colorado Indigent Care Program (CICP) Reminder

As a reminder, the Colorado Indigent Care Program (CICP) is still available for Coloradans who qualify. A majority of Coloradans who qualify for CICP are now eligible for Medicaid or are individuals who qualify for tax credits or cost sharing reductions through the Marketplace. The Department is not proposing funding or policy changes to CICP at this time or in the near future. It is important to remember that CICP is **NOT** health insurance and will not satisfy the federal requirement to have coverage. The Department has developed a fact sheet for CICP. The fact sheet discusses the impact of the ACA on CICP clients. Click [here](#) for the fact sheet or find it at Colorado.gov/HCPF/ACAResources. Click [here](#) for **additional** information about CICP.

Colorado QuitLine Study Sheds Light on Tobacco Cessation Program Effectiveness

A recent [study](#) found that shortened doses of nicotine replacement therapy (NRT) delivered through the Colorado QuitLine did not reduce the effectiveness of the program among moderate smokers who smoke 16-20 cigarettes per day.

Facing a fiscal emergency in 2009, NRT for QuitLine participants was reduced from eight weeks to four weeks. This study measured the impact on abstinence rates for QuitLine participants with shorter duration of free NRT and found that abstinence rates were similar. This study notes that offering the full recommended course of NRT (8 weeks) through a split shipment protocol may be reasonably cost effective and supportive of those trying to quit tobacco.

Funding levels have returned and the health department recommends health care providers working with patients ready to quit smoking refer them to the Colorado QuitLine for a proven eight-week program of counseling and NRT. Patients can call the QuitLine at 1-800-QUIT-NOW and be connected with a trained quit coach who provides tailored support to help them quit and free NRT (patches, lozenges, gum or combination therapy) for smokers 18 years and older and medically eligible.

For your patients who do not choose to call the QuitLine, this new study suggests that four weeks of NRT, combined with counseling, is also effective in helping smokers quit and costs less per quit.

Resources for health care providers are available at colorado.gov/pacific/cdphe/health-care-providers-treating-tobacco-use.

Intent to Submit an Application to Extend Colorado's Title XXI Section 1115 Demonstration Project

Please note January meetings have been postponed until further notice. For more information, contact [Allison Heyne](#).

In February 2015, the Department intends to submit an application for an extension of Colorado's title XXI section 1115 demonstration project No. 21-W-00014/8. Under this project, Colorado expanded the income eligibility level for uninsured pregnant women from 200% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) through 250% FPL.

The demonstration has three main objectives:

- Decrease the rate of uninsured pregnant women
- Increase prenatal and postpartum care for pregnant women enrolled in the demonstration
- Increase the number of healthy babies born to pregnant women enrolled in the demonstration

The application will request an extension of the federal authority for Colorado to continue to receive title XXI funds for pregnant women with income above 133% of the FPL through 185% of the FPL through September 30, 2019. During this timeframe, Colorado will continue to reach out to, enroll and provide prenatal and postpartum care to eligible pregnant women from 133% of the FPL through 250% of the FPL to achieve the objectives of this program.

Learn more about the Section 1115 demonstration program.

Send written comments to:

Colorado Department of Health Care Policy & Financing

Attn: CHP+ 1115 Prenatal Waiver Application

1570 Grant Street

Denver, CO 80203-1818

Home Modification Stakeholder Workgroup

The Department has partnered with the Department of Local Affairs' (DOLA) Division of Housing to increase the quality of the home modification benefit provided to clients. The next six months will be a transition period during which both HCPF and DOLA will be soliciting input on proposed changes to oversight of the home modification benefit.

HCPF and DOLA will be co-facilitating a series of stakeholder workgroups for the home modification benefit beginning Friday, January 23, 2015. The workgroup will meet every fourth Friday, 9:30 am – 11:30 am, at 303 E. 17th Ave, Denver, Room 7AB. To participate by phone, call:

Local: 720-279-0026

Toll Free: 1-877-820-7831

Participant code: 516148#

We welcome participation from all groups involved in the home modification process, including clients, Occupational Therapists and Physical Therapists, case managers, contractors, and local building code officials.

For more information, contact [Diane Byrne](#).

Contain Costs

Accountable Care Collaborative Update

The Accountable Care Collaborative (ACC) Program represents a committed effort to transform the Medicaid program into a system of better care for all its members, and to lower costs for the State of Colorado.

Estimated ACC enrollment as of December 1, 2014 was 760,519.

Medical Services Board

Public Rule Review Opportunities

Partners who are interested in a one-on-one discussion with Department staff about upcoming rules are invited to attend the Department's Public Rule Review Meeting. Information is available on the [Public Rule Review Meetings](#) web page. Reasonable accommodations for the meetings are provided upon request for persons with disabilities.

If you would like more information, or to be added to the Medical Services Board email distribution list, please contact [Judi Carey](#).

Disability Rights Notice

The Colorado Department of Health Care Policy and Financing does not discriminate against any person on the basis of disability in its programs, services, and activities. To meet the requirements of Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 ("ADA"), the Department adopted operating procedure [ADA001 Disability Rights Policy and Grievance Procedure](#). More information including a copy of this policy is available on the Department's [website](#). For further information or to file a discrimination complaint contact:

504/ADA Coordinator
Health Care Policy & Financing
1570 Grant Street
Denver, Colorado 80203

Telephone: 303-866-6010
FAX: 303-866-2828
State Relay: 711
Email: hcpf504ada@state.co.us

Employment Opportunities

Applying for state government jobs is easy. Applications are electronic, you will receive updates, and you do not need to answer any written questions until it is determined that you meet the minimum qualifications. Check out the [website](#) for State of Colorado jobs including the Department of Health Care Policy and Financing jobs.

The Department offers a competitive benefits package that includes the Public Employees' Retirement Account (PERA), a 401K or 457 retirement plan, health and dental insurance options, 10 holidays, and accrual of paid sick and vacation time. The Department is a tobacco-free campus.



Enrollment

In November 2014, there were 1,125,105 Coloradans enrolled in Medicaid and 52,120 Coloradans enrolled in CHP+.

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